



July 25, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

The Regional Port Authority of Northwest Ohio is focused on promoting economic development in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Paulding Counties. Based on their extensive experience, our board members believe strongly that a robust communications infrastructure is a key catalyst for development of local and regional economies through expansion of existing businesses and launching of new ones.

With the growing importance of the Internet as a tool for doing business, the ability to use networks for high-speed and dependable access, whether in the office or away, is becoming more important by the day. Ensuring that economically priced broadband network services are available wherever businesses and consumers need them should be a top priority for government.

The proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA offers a prime opportunity for our country to act on achieving ubiquitous broadband availability. Permitting the companies to merge would be the fastest way to ensure deployment of a national Long Term Evolution (LTE) mobile broadband network that would serve businesses and consumers in urban, suburban, and rural areas and help achieve the nation's goal of broadband to everyone.

Combining AT&T with T-Mobile will mean improved service and coverage for millions of customers. It will also enable AT&T to expand LTE wireless deployment over the next seven years to an additional 55 million Americans. This will spur economic growth by offering businesses and consumers almost everywhere in the country faster access to a strong, robust network and cutting-edge technology.

We would like to go on record as enthusiastically in support of this merger. We urge the Commission to act favorably on the application.

Sincerely,

Stan Multhauf  
Chairman of Board of Directors  
Regional Port Authority of Northwest Ohio  
1300 E. 2nd St., Suite 200  
Defiance, OH 43512